

THE APPROACH

AND

Signal Victory,

OF

K. WILLIAMS FORCES,

OVER THE

IRISH ARMY;

ENCAMPED

Round LIMMRICK.

ALSO

The Fording the River *Shannon*, together with the Besieging that important Garison. With an account of Col. *Woolleys* Defeating a Body of the *Irish* Rapperies near *Athloane*. Sent Exprels to the Queen.

21. Aug. 1690.

ONE of the Kings Messengers is arrived with Exprels from his Majesty, to the Queen at *White-Hall*, with Letters bearing date the 9th. Instant, from the Camp before *Limrick*; with an account that Lievt. General *Kirk* having joyned the Kings Forces from *Waterford*; and Lievt. General *Douglas* from *Athloane*: Composing 38500 Effective Men, Marched in Three Bodys towards *Limrick*, and being advanced within Six Miles of the Town: On the 7th took a Resolution to attack the *Irish* Forces the next Morning; which were Encamped and had intrenched themselves in all the Defiles leading thereto: having first Plowed up the Ground, made great numbers of small Forts, threw Timber and Trees across, and did all that possibly could be done to obstruct the passage of the Kings Forces: Leaving the Hedges, Gardens, and other places for Five Miles together, with Musqueteers in the nature of an Ambuscade; and their Horse made shew as if they would make vigorous resistance, and stood our first Charge, but soon afterwards gave way to let our Forces in, to be galled by the *Irish* Musqueteers, but ours so resolutely pushed on, that waithin an hour forced them in all places to give way, and make them Retreat; they being that Afternoon driven from

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all their Posts they so much relied on, and obliged to take refuge in the Town; they having had above 400 killed in their Retreat, besides divers of them taken Prisoners; and ours persued them to the very walls notwithstanding the firing they made from the Cannon of the Garrison. This Evening was spent in taking the most advantageous Posts about the Town, and our Pioners fell to level the great number of Trenches the *Irish* had cast up for their defence. The next Morning the King Commanded *Livet. General Kirck* to Ford the *Shannon*, which he did not above a Mile from the Town, with Five Regiments of Horse and Dragoons and Three of Foot; which he did with that success and Celerity that the Enemy believing it could not possibly be done: Scarce ever being fordable before, that they made no opposition, which had they done might have greatly Distressed our Troops; who so soon as they perceived them on *Clare* side fled many of them away, tho' got into a considerable Body quitted all their Out-Works. And Colonel *Earl* was so eager in the persuite that he might have fell pell mell with the Enemy into the Town but his Maj. Commanded his Retreat. And thereupon our Forces have possessed themselves of all the advantageous Hills; and have already planted two Batteries of *Demy Culverin*, and fired into the Garrison, and begin to break ground: And his Majesty, about noon, sent a Trumpet to summon them to surrender. And 'tis said, a great part of the Garrison, with some of the Officers, were for Capitulating; but Coll. *Sarsfield*, who presides Governour, resolutely opposed: making a Speech to the Garrison, of the great Divisions there were in *England*; and that 50000 *French* had made a descent, and said, the Prince of *Orange* would be obliged to draw off his Army in few days, to defend the Kingdom of *England*; and thereupon prevailed upon them, to stand to their Arms, returning an Answer to the Summons, That as *K. James* had intrusted them with that Garrison, they would recommend themselves to the Prince of *Orange* by their vigorous Resistance; and so dismissed the Trumpet with the same firing the Guns after him; but 'tis not doubted, they will alter their Sentiment so soon as the heavy Canon comes up, which is expected the next day, being but eight Miles behind, with divers Mortars. A Defection of Arms, That a *French* Commander, the Duk of *Berwick*, Mr. *Fitz-James*, Coll. *Batters*, &c. remain in the Town, with some *French*, who returned from *Galloway*, the Inhabitants refusing, at first, to suffer any of them to come therein.

The Letters farther add, That just at the coming away of the Express, our Forces had possessed themselves of a Neighbouring Island near that Garrison, of great Importance to us; and that they had taken *Ireton Fort*: and they do not in the least doubt, but to be in full possession of the whole in few days.

The Letters farther signify, That the Enemy has burnt and destroy'd every thing round that might be of use to us, and the Rebels are grown so Insolent between *Mullenger* and *Athlone*, that Collonel *Woosly*, with his *Inskilling* Regiment, has fell in upon, and totally defeated them; killing 56 upon the place, making divers of them Prisoners; amongst them two persons of Note.